

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	BOX PATENT APPLICATION
)	
Manabu HIRAOKA et al)	Group Art Unit: Not Assigned
)	
Application No.: Not Assigned)	Examiner: Not Assigned
)	
Filed: January 31, 2001)	
)	
For: PERFLUORO COMPOUNDS)	
DECOMPOSITION METHOD AND)	
DECOMPOSITION APPARATUS)	
THEREFOR)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified
application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 5, delete "Detailed Description of The Invention" and replace with

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, line 13, delete "Prior Arts" and replace with

--Description of the Related Art--.

Page 2, line 11, delete the line in its entirety.

Page 2, line 23, delete the line in its entirety and replace with

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 3, after line 16, please insert

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The Figure of the Drawing is a schematic block flow diagram showing one example of the decomposition apparatus according to the present invention.

The Reference Numerals refer to 1 - reactant, 2 - reaction section, 3a~3c - gas flow passages, 4a,4b - heating means.--

Page 3, line 18, delete "Operational Effects" and replace with

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Page 4, line 23, delete "Embodiments of the Invention"

Page 9, line 14, delete "Examples" and replace with

--Examples--.

Page 11, delete lines 15-21 in their entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for decomposing perfluoro compounds [decomposition method] which comprises bringing a gas containing perfluoro compounds [under heating] into contact with a solid reactant while heating, thereby fixing the fluorine component on said reactant, and with [characterized in that] said

reactant comprising [contains] an alkaline earth metal compound and aluminum oxide.

4. (Amended) A perfluoro compounds decomposition apparatus which comprises a reaction section filled with a solid reactant, gas flow passages capable of feeding a gas containing perfluoro compounds to said reaction section and of discharging a gas left after the reaction, and heating means for heating said reaction section or the gas to be fed to the same reaction section, characterized in that said reactant is a reactant for decomposition of perfluoro compounds [according to claim 2 or 3] comprising an alkaline earth metal compound and aluminum oxide.

Please add new claims 5 and 6 as follows:

--5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the alkaline earth metal compound of the reactant is magnesium oxide.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal compound of the reactant is magnesium oxide.--

REMARKS

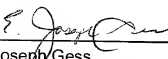
Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the recited subject matter as a method for decomposing perfluoro compounds, and Claim 4 has been amended to specifically recite that the reactant comprises magnesium oxide, and to delete the multiple dependency. New Claims 5 and 6 have accordingly been added to round out the scope of protection to which applicants are entitled. The specification has also been amended in order to better conform the headings to U.S. practice.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his or her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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